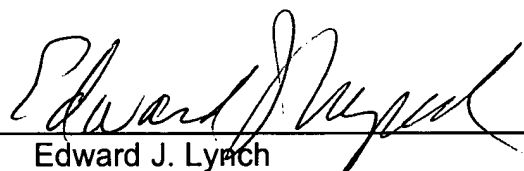


REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. Support for new claims 40-51 may be found in the figures, specification and claims as originally filed, e.g., Figs. 15 and 16, page 17, line 25 to page 18, line 21 and original claims 30-33. No new matter is introduced by these claims.

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent Office the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and request that they be considered by the Examiner. Copies of the references are not enclosed because each of the references was previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in prior application Serial No. 09/057,303, filed April 8, 1998, which is relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 USC 120. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2), therefore no fee is due. Some of the new claims are similar to the claims found in U.S. Patent No. 6,689,145.

Respectfully submitted,

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